



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

TURNIPS.

The average crop of turnips, in Northumberland, (North of England,) is set down in the British agricultural publications at twenty-five tons of Swedes, and twenty-eight of white per acre. It is, however, not uncommon to get forty tons, yet such crops are secured by what is regarded, even by the liberal farmers of that country, as an extravagant outlay of manure, although thirty-five tons of either whites or Swedes are often taken from an acre by dry weather. The Swede is generally preferred, as it has been found both by experience in feeding, and by correct chemical analyses, to contain a much larger per cent of alimentary matter than the common white, or, indeed, any other of the turnip family, besides being considered, almost universally, as a less exhausting crop. The following directions for the cultivation of this valuable crop, we take from an English publication, issued in the year 1846:—

"Swede turnips, with dung, should be sown upon drills of the width of twenty-seven inches from centre to centre; and white turnips on drills from twenty-eight to thirty inches; with bone manure, and for spring food, a width of twenty-six inches is sufficient. The quantity of seed, per acre, is two pounds of white, and three of Swede. An interval of eight inches is left between the plants in the row, as a smaller space, where the soil is rich, is found inadequate. White turnips require a somewhat larger space, as their habits of growth are different; the expansion being lateral rather than vertical. As a general thing, there is nothing lost by allowing 'room enough'—the diminution in the number of the roots being more than counterbalanced by the increase in the weight of the crop. Cleanly cultivation is to be recommended in all cases. We would urge it upon all who have the means to cultivate the turnip, both for table use and as a feed for stock. Cattle, especially in the winter season, are very fond of them, and they are cheaper than hay or grain. The following remarks, on the mode of tillage, pursued by the English, are important:—

"The first operation on the turnip drills, so soon as the plants are of sufficient size to bear it, is to take the soil from the side of the drill with the small single horse plough, by going along one side and returning on the other, which cuts down also many weeds that may have sprung up, and lays them in the hollow of the drill; the plants are then thinned, and the top of the drill cleaned of weeds, which are also drawn into the hollow by hand hoeing. Where bone dust has been used, it is recommended rather to thin the plants by pulling than to strike the hoe thro' them, as in that way less of the bone manure is drawn off from the roots of the turnips. From ten to twelve days, when the weeds have had time to wither, and the plants have recovered their upright position, a scuffle is run between the rows, stirring the soil which the little plough had laid there, and shaking the weeds with which it is mixed; the turnips are again hand-hoeed, and after awhile, unless a tendency to weeds renders another hoeing necessary, in which case the scuffle may be again applied, a double mould-board plough is run along, laying the soil back against the sides of the drill, but not so high as to cover the plants, which would materially injure their growth."

In this country, where the seasons are much less humid than in England, the practice of introducing the "hilling system" is found to be injudicious, as it exposes too large a surface to the action of the atmosphere, and consequently diminishes the supply of moisture contained in the soil, and which is ever required for the use and benefit of the crop. We would suggest in closing our remarks at this time, that every one who cultivates turnips, should, in the first place, anticipate success, by a liberal dispensation of affluent manures, and by the most thorough cultivation possible to bestow.

BIRDS.

Every person who has attempted to cultivate fruit or vegetables, has doubtless experienced greater or less perplexity in consequence of the depredations committed by flies, grubs, and other insect vermin. Fully to obviate this difficulty requires a degree of vigilance and watchfulness that but few are prepared to accord, and even could the farmer or gardener devote his entire time to the work of protection, he would doubtless fail of effecting the result desired. Of the thousand and one remedies which science and experience have proposed for these evils, none, unfortunately, have proved uniformly successful. The striped bug still preys upon the soft and sapid foliage of the cucumber and the melon; the curculio destroys the pearmain, the russet and the sweeting; the turnip-fly revels amid the luxuries of the ruta-baga fields, and the cut-worm, despite his utmost efforts, lays low the promise of the corn field and the cabbage lot. The most natural remedy for these evils is that which has been beneficently supplied by Nature, and which, in his blindness, man unfortunately has most frequently overlooked. We allude to the agency of birds. In Europe the value of these industrious little "operatives" is fully appreciated, and they are consequently cherished and protected as friends whose assistance cannot be dispensed with. A single sparrow or red-bird will, if permitted, destroy more flies, worms, bugs and other noxious insects, than a dozen hands if kept constantly in the field. These constitute their appropriate food, at least during a part of the

season, and in their pursuit instinct directs them with an unerring precision which wisdom never can exercise or attain to. "As nothing has been created in vain," says one, "so nothing should be thoughtlessly thrust out of existence. Insects we do not credit for wise purposes, but to prevent their becoming too numerous, and thereby defeating that purpose, the feathered tribe are appointed to hold them in check. Let us, therefore, spare the birds—their beauty, innocence, and usefulness, all plead for them."

CLIPPING HEDGES.

An author who is entitled to authority in this case, remarks that in trimming hedges we "should not cut the top of the stem, until it has acquired sufficient stability to resist even a bull." The sides are to be clipped in such a manner as to confer upon the hedge a conical shape.

CHERRY LEAVES.

A friend inquired of us some time since, whether we had ever known a cherry to be poisoned by eating cherry leaves. A favorite cow of his, he said, had been taken suddenly ill after partaking of the foliage of a small tree that had been taken up and left in a yard to which he had access. We informed him that we had heard of such results though we could not vouch for their correctness. Since then, however, we have ascertained that two cows died in Kensington, Ct., in consequence of eating the leaves of the wild cherry, in a wilted state; the bush having been cut about two hours. One of the animals is represented as having died in forty minutes; the other in little over an hour and a half after eating the leaves.

MANURE—QUANTITY TO THE ACRE, &c.

At the very foundation of good husbandry lies the subject of manure. No farmer can prosper, or even "get along," as the phrase is, for any length of time without paying some attention to the making and saving of manure, as well as to the proper time and mode of applying it to his land. The whole subject has been well discussed in the various agricultural Journals in the United States and Great Britain, and by numerous agricultural writers, during the last four or five years; but it is far from being exhausted. Experiments of all kinds, and upon all kinds of soil, have been made to test the value of the different fertilizing substances, singly and combined in the shape of composts, and also to ascertain the quantity and mode of applying them which would ensure the greatest benefit to the farmer. Various theories have been promulgated, various opinions expressed, and numerous facts elicited and discovered, made, which have contributed in a wonderful degree to the advancement of agriculture, and the substantial interests of all who are engaged in it, or dependent upon it. Still, the very worst practices of the worst farmers, during the worst times, (in an agricultural sense)—prior to the diffusion of so much light on the subject, prevail extensively in Canada. You need not travel three miles from any of the public roads leading from Toronto, to see those methods adopted, by which it has been proved over and over again, experimentally, scientifically, and in every possible way, that one-half of the manure, say, two-thirds of its fertilizing power is utterly lost—dissipated in the air. Now, this waste cannot be afforded; we must husband our resources, and give back to the soil those ingredients in the shape of manure, which we take from it by our crops, or we have failed in our application to the land. The whole quantity to be first weighed or measured, and then divided.

"The fermentation of farm-yard manure is, in fact, a subject of far more importance than is generally imagined, for on a due estimation of its value mainly depends the individual success, as well as the national prosperity, of our agriculture. The experiments to which we point cannot, therefore, fail to come home to the interests of every man; they may be made without expense, and without any other trouble than the mere exercise of common observation and intelligence. Leaving, however, aside the discussion concerning the short dung—let the farmer sedulously bend his attention to the accumulation of the utmost quantity that he is in his power to procure. The manner and the time of using it, in either state, must, however, be governed by circumstances which may not always be within his control; and every judicious husbandman will rather accommodate himself to the exigency of the case than adhere strictly to his own notions of what he conceives to be the best practice. In fine, whether favoring the one or the other side of the question, let him collect all he can; apply it carefully to his crops, and then, trusting to events—let the land and the muck tell it." [Canada Farmer.]

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Ranunculus. The only observation we have to make upon this flower will apply to all others. Break up the earth about it carefully, and hill it up without loading the stem.

Horses should never be put to severe work on a full stomach. More horses are hurt by hard driving after a full feed, than by a full feed after hard driving.

PLOUGHING.

Perhaps no part of husbandry is more familiar than ploughing, and no part, as a general rule, more imperfectly done. The farmers of this country, anxious to gain possession of extensive farms, generally occupy more land than they can command means to cultivate in a proper manner. The consequence is, that the ploughing, like every thing else, is done in a hurry; and therefore only half done. The best fields are ploughed only once, and the hardest twice; and what is not cut up is said to be covered up; and hence, ready for the seed. This is all wrong, and in fact, ruinous to the farmer. The invariable rule should be, to cultivate no more land than can be done well; and in ploughing, to repeat the process until the soil, to the depth of a full deep furrow, is reduced to a fine mellow texture, whether it requires the process to be repeated ten times or only once. The furrow should also be cut deep enough to turn up the woody or fibrous texture of the matter contained in them, and the roots and seeds of weeds, be completely decomposed, and until they emit a foul putrid smell; by which time they reach their greatest degree of strength, and arrive at the state of spit-dung.

6. To keep the dung in an equal state of moisture, so as to prevent any portion of the heap from becoming fire-fanged. If the fermentation be too rapid, heavy watering will abate the heat; but it will afterwards revive with increased force, unless the heap be either trodden firmly down or covered with mould to exclude the air.

7. To ferment the dung, if to be laid upon arable land during the autumn, in a much less degree than that to be applied before a spring sowing.

8. To lay a larger quantity on cold and wet lands than on those of a lighter nature; because the former require to be corrected by the warmth of the dung, while on dry, sandy, and gravelly soils, the application of too much dung is apt to burn up the plants. Still land will also be loosened by the undecayed fibres of long dung, which, although its putrefaction will thus be retarded, and its fertilizing power delayed, will yet ultimately afford nourishment.

9. To form composts with dung, or other animal and vegetable substances, and earth, for application to light soils.

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12. To try experiments, during a series of years, upon the same soils and crops, with equal quantities of dung, laid on fresh, and afterwards rotted; in order to ascertain the results of their application to the land. The whole quantity to be first weighed or measured, and then divided.

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TO WOOL-BROWERS—NO. III.

AGRICULTURAL ROOMS, 2 Albany, June 4, 1846. J. M. SHERWOOD, Esq., President of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society.

DEAR SIR:—From the facts and arguments of my last letter, it would seem certain that there must be created, either by arrangement or by the force of circumstances, a set of men who will fill in this country the duties that are performed in England by the Wool Broker. Either the farmers alone, or in conjunction with the manufacturers, must appoint agents who sell exclusively on commission. Will such an agent fulfil all these requirements which I have mentioned as necessary to success? Let us examine the point according to the immutable searching laws of business.

Such an agent must be responsible to the manufacturer for the character of the wool he sells him, and of course he will be compelled to know the exact condition of every fleece that comes into his warehouse, and at once point out to the farmer its excellencies and its defects. So far then the scheme works. The manufacturer is sure of the condition of the wool, and the farmer rewarded for his skill. Unless fleeces are sorted it cannot be done; if sorted with skill and judgment, it can. No one is fool enough to believe that although a manufacturer may be satisfied that the condition of the wool is all right, and can also see with his own eyes that every fleece in the lot offered him by the agent has the very quality of fineness, length of staple, and strength of fibre that he requires, that he will, nevertheless, pay no more for such a lot than for one of which he knows either nothing, or knows that it will not suit his manufacture.

It is useless to waste words to show, that from the very circumstances enumerated, that any, that all manufacturers will pay, under these circumstances, a fair discriminating price. Allowing that manufacturers are sharp and selfish, they are not fools and madmen. I am allowed to state that a factory of high character and large capital, have resolved no longer to buy wool unless it is presented to them exactly under the circumstances I have mentioned, for they have been compelled for a long period to manufacture a kind of wool they do not want, to their great injury, with machinery that is fitted for superior wool. But they have accumulated under the old system a large stock of inferior wool, and it had to be got rid of. I feel quite sure, if my inquiries were further extended, I would be able to state the same facts of a good many others.

It is very certain that without a free and frank intercourse between the agent and the manufacturer, no sorting of fleeces can be satisfactory. The agent must know what style of wool the latter wants, and though he may arrange his fleeces under ever so many numbers, unless he knows how his numbers run among the sorts of the wool stapler, his sorting will do but little good. The fact is, the system must work well, because it is for the interest of both the farmer and the manufacturer cordially to co-operate.

But will the manufacturer hold a free intercourse with the agent of the farmer? Will he do any thing that is for his own interests? It is absurd to answer the question.

Will the farmer receive prompt pay? In one sense, which I will explain by and by, I hope not; in another sense, I answer, not only as prompt, but far more prompt than under the old system.

To a small extent I am a wool-grower myself, and unfortunately a very needy one. I am ever puzzled to know what to do with my wool. I have waited for the wool-dealer to call, but hope deferred maketh the heart sick, and when he did call I have sold for whatever he chose to give. Afterwards I found he had given a price which sustained his interests better, far better, than mine.

I then undertook to sell my own wool to the liberal wool merchants in Albany. Sometimes it arrived before the market was formed—of course there it had to be warehoused; and however diligent might afterwards have been, I never could find the right time to sell in order to secure the highest market price. And I am sorry to add, that when sold at last, warehouse charges, and those of ceteras, which are appended to accounts of sales, convinced me that I would have done better to have sold even before the market price was formed. However it may have been with me, I have never been able to count upon the same fair prices and prompt returns for my wool, that I have been able to for my other farm products.

This year my wool is remitted to an agent, who charges me one cent per pound commission for selling, which covers all expenses except insurance, and for which I pay him one-quarter of one cent each three months; he at once gave me an advance of two-thirds of the value of the wool, for which advance I pay him seven per cent interest. Am I a gainer or loser by the operation? Shall I waste your time and exhaust your patience by an absurd argument to show that I am a gainer. I will simply say to the farmer, that no argument is necessary to establish this point. You are no better than the cotton-grower, and that is precisely the condition under which his cotton is disposed of; he ships his cotton and draws his bills against it for two-thirds of its value.

These are the very terms under which the manufacturer that buys your wool disposes of his wares at the commission house he employs. Nay, it is the usage of the commercial world, settled by common experience, and therefore must in the end be confirmed by the experience of the farmer.

I have stated my own case, and while I am writing an instance has occurred—almost on my eye which equally illustrates the position I have taken.

A farmer sold his wool in a neighboring city, last year for thirty cents a pound. He has this moment just carried his wool to the same place, clipped from the same sheep, and every way a lot of wool similar to the wool of last year. He has driven from one end of

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CRANBERRIES.

The cultivation of the cranberry continues to excite attention. Those who have engaged in it have generally been successful and many vines will be set the present spring. As we have heretofore prepared an article on the cultivation of the cranberry, which was generally copied by the newspapers, we propose at this time to state only a few facts, which may be useful to those who are only commencing the cultivation.

It has generally been thought that there is but one variety of the American bog cranberry. This is a mistake; there are several, differing in form, size and color from each other. The large roundish, deep red berries are esteemed the best.

In its native state, the cranberry is found growing on the low borders of ponds and streams, in swampy grounds, in damp sands, and in shallow ponds and bogs.

It is most productive on soils composed almost wholly of silicious sand, overlaid with water, in the winter and spring and which continues during the season.

Vines set in peat bogs are not productive if at any time during the summer months the surface of the bog becomes dry and hard; but when the surface of the bog is covered with sand, and there is an abundant supply of water during the year, they are productive.

The cranberry is the only cultivated fruit not benefited by the application of manures. In deep mossy bogs it is frequently found growing in situations where its roots do not touch the soil. It is a plant that derives its support almost wholly from the atmosphere and water, and therefore it is that it flourishes best in sand and vegetable matter that is not entirely decomposed.

The spring of the year is the best season for transplanting cranberry vines. If set in the fall, they are frequently hauled out of the ground by the frost, and have to be re-set. There is less danger of setting them too deep than too shallow, and it is now considered the better mode to separate the vines and plant them in drills, drawn about two feet deep.

It has been said that the cranberry, like the native grape, will grow in wet or dry soils. We have seen a few cranberry vines on uplands, but they produce but little fruit and that was generally wormy and poor. We do not advise any to try the experiment on a large scale.

The best remedy for destroying the worm which attacks the cranberry plant about the time it is in blossom, is to scatter wood ashes over the vines, early in the morning, when they are wet with dew. Fine salt and lime are also said to be remedies.

At the prices which the cranberry has sold several years past, it is the most profitable crop that can be cultivated, and encourages the adoption of the improvement and encourages the establishment of Agricultural Societies.

Wherever these societies have been formed a marked change has occurred in the practice of agriculture. A spirit of emulation tempts the farmer to travel out of the beaten track of his ancestors, and to try new experiments in the method of raising crops—which experiments, with their results, are made public through the medium of the Agricultural Societies, and are thus made beneficial to the whole community. Again, these societies have an important influence on the improvement of stock, by offering inducements for the farmer to make extra exertions in rearing and managing his domestic animals. Improvements of this character are not confined to the particular animals which are offered for exhibition, but the improved qualities are generally inherited by their offspring. There are various other matters connected with farming, over which these societies exercise a beneficial effect, not the least of which is the influence which they have on the minds of youth, by teaching them that agriculture is one of the most noble employments in which man is engaged—an employment worthy of the support and encouragement of the present and best men in the country; by perfecting the knowledge of the various branches of farming, from the observations which they make in attending the annual fairs held by the societies; and finally, by creating in their minds a zeal to become possessors of a farm in order to become competitors for the honor of obtaining premiums from these institutions.

The State of Massachusetts has probably done as much, if not more than any other State in the Union, towards fostering and protecting the agricultural interest. For many years large bounties have been annually paid to the State and County Agricultural Societies, in return for which the societies are required to make an annual return of their doings, an abstract from which, containing much valuable information, is published under the direction of the Secretary of State. From the abstract of the return of the year 1846, recently published, we have prepared the following statement, showing the amount of the premiums offered, and awarded by the several Agricultural Societies, during the last year.

	Offered.	Awarded.
Essex	625	500
Franklin	750	600
Worcester	600	500
Hampshire, Franklin and Hampshire	450	400
Hampden	500	500
Berkshire	450	400
Townshend	450	400
Bristol	450	400
Worcester	450	400
Total	\$5,250	\$4,100

Besides the above, there were also offered and awarded as premiums by several of the societies, copies of various agricultural publications. The objects for which premiums were offered are various, comprising experiments in nearly the whole range of practical farming, and domestic manufactures.

We have perused with much interest the Abstract from the return of the year 1846, and it is filled with matter which is highly instructive, and should be in the hands of every farmer in the Commonwealth. [Boston Journal.]

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AGRICULTURAL ROOMS, 2 Albany, June 4, 1846. J. M. SHERWOOD, Esq., President of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society.

DEAR SIR:—From the facts and arguments of my last letter, it would seem certain that there must be created, either by arrangement or by the force of circumstances, a set of men who will fill in this country the duties that are performed in England by the Wool Broker. Either the farmers alone, or in conjunction with the manufacturers, must appoint agents who sell exclusively on commission. Will such an agent fulfil all these requirements which I have mentioned as necessary to success? Let us examine the point according to the immutable searching laws of business.

Such an agent must be responsible to the manufacturer for the character of the wool he sells him, and of course he will be compelled to know the exact condition of every fleece that comes into his warehouse, and at once point out to the farmer its excellencies and its defects. So far then the scheme works. The manufacturer is sure of the condition of the wool, and the farmer rewarded for his skill. Unless fleeces are sorted it cannot be done; if sorted with skill and judgment, it can. No one is fool enough to believe that although a manufacturer may be satisfied that the condition of the wool is all right, and can also see with his own eyes that every fleece in the lot offered him by the agent has the very quality of fineness, length of staple, and strength of fibre that he requires, that he will, nevertheless, pay no more for such a lot than for one of which he knows either nothing, or knows that it will not suit his manufacture.

It is useless to waste words to show, that from the very circumstances enumerated, that any, that all manufacturers will pay, under these circumstances, a fair discriminating price. Allowing that manufacturers are sharp and selfish, they are not fools and madmen. I am allowed to state that a factory of high character and large capital, have resolved no longer to buy wool unless it is presented to them exactly under the circumstances I have mentioned, for they have been compelled for a long period to manufacture a kind of wool they do not want, to their great injury, with machinery that is fitted for superior wool. But they have accumulated under the old system a large stock of inferior wool, and it had to be got rid of. I feel quite sure, if my inquiries were further extended, I would be able to state the same facts of a good many others.

It is very certain that without a free and frank intercourse between the agent and the manufacturer, no sorting of fleeces can be satisfactory. The agent must know what style of wool the latter wants, and though he may arrange his fleeces under ever so many numbers, unless he knows how his numbers run among the sorts of the wool stapler, his sorting will do but little good. The fact is, the system must work well, because it is for the interest of both the farmer and the manufacturer cordially to co-operate.

But will the manufacturer hold a free intercourse with the agent of the farmer? Will he do any thing that is for his own interests? It is absurd to answer the question.

Will the farmer receive prompt pay? In one sense, which I will explain by and by, I hope not; in another sense, I answer, not only as prompt, but far more prompt than under the old system.

To a small extent I am a wool-grower myself, and unfortunately a very needy one. I am ever puzzled to know what to do with my wool. I have waited for the wool-dealer to call, but hope deferred maketh the heart sick, and when he did call I have sold for whatever he chose to give. Afterwards I found he had given a price which sustained his interests better, far better, than mine.

I then undertook to sell my own wool to the liberal wool merchants in Albany. Sometimes it arrived before the market was formed—of course there it had to be warehoused; and however diligent might afterwards have been, I never could find the right time to sell in order to secure the highest market price. And I am sorry to add, that when sold at last, warehouse charges, and those of ceteras, which are appended to accounts of sales, convinced me that I would have done better to have sold even before the market price was formed. However it may have been with me, I have never been able to count upon the same fair prices and prompt returns for my wool, that I have been able to for my other farm products.

This year my wool is remitted to an agent, who charges me one cent per pound commission for selling, which covers all expenses except insurance, and for which I pay him one-quarter of one cent each three months; he at once gave me an advance of two-thirds of the value of the wool, for which advance I pay him seven per cent interest. Am I a gainer or loser by the operation? Shall I waste your time and exhaust your patience by an absurd argument to show that I am a gainer. I will simply say to the farmer, that no argument is necessary to establish this point. You are no better than the cotton-grower, and that is precisely the condition under which his cotton is disposed of; he ships his cotton and draws his bills against it for two-thirds of its value.

These are the very terms under which the manufacturer that buys your wool disposes of his wares at the commission house he employs. Nay, it is the usage of the commercial world, settled by common experience, and therefore must in the end be confirmed by the experience of the farmer.

I have stated my own case, and while

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